

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

STATE OF MARYLAND	:	
v.	:	Case No. 118267-C
BRITTANY E. NORWOOD	:	
Defendant	:	

AMENDED MEDIA PROTOCOL ORDER (10/14/11)

Because of widespread interest in this case, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County and presiding Judge Robert A. Greenberg will attempt to accommodate members of the public and press to the greatest extent practicable. At the same time, the court must ensure that the parties are afforded a fair trial that takes place with minimal disruption to the courtroom, Montgomery County Judicial Center, and the surrounding community.

Accordingly, it is this 2nd day of September, 2011, by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, **ORDERED**:

1. **IN GENERAL:** This Order shall govern the conduct of the media during the trial of *State of Maryland v. Brittany E. Norwood*, which is presently scheduled for eight days, beginning on October 24, 2011. A copy of this Order shall be posted on the court's website, together with any additional written opinions or orders the court may file during the course of the case, at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ciatmpl.asp?url=/content/circuitcourt/index.asp>.

2. **SHERIFF FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY:** Darren Popkin, the Sheriff for Montgomery County, Maryland, is responsible for establishing and maintaining security in and surrounding the Judicial Center. All persons must comply with the Sheriff's instructions regarding security measures in or surrounding the Judicial Center. Reference herein to the Sheriff shall include his deputies and assistants.

3. **TEMPORARY PRESS PASSES:** To accommodate the news media, the Sheriff will issue temporary press passes when shown appropriate press credentials, and after any other background check which he, in his sole discretion, requires. With the temporary pass, members of the press will be allowed to enter the building at the Maryland Avenue entrance without a search. Reporters and photojournalists without approved credentials will be subject to search, as will those who use entrances to the building other than on Maryland Avenue. Members of the media are requested to refrain from bringing excess bags or backpacks into the courthouse. No weapons of any kind, including but not limited to firearms of any type or knives, shall be permitted in the Judicial Center. Those interested in obtaining a temporary press pass should contact the Sheriff's Office at the phone number(s) listed in paragraph 18.

4. **PARKING:** There will be one assigned parking space per station for television trucks, on Maryland Avenue in front of the Judicial Center. This parking area will extend approximately from East Jefferson Street to Courthouse Square. Parking permits must be visible in the driver's side windshield. Additional parking for the media is available at the parking lot near the intersection of Middle Lane and Hungerford Drive. No parking will be permitted in the traffic circles or sidewalks located in the front and rear of the Judicial Center. The three handicapped parking spaces on Maryland Avenue will remain handicapped parking permit spaces, only. The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for distribution of parking permits.

5. **SPECIAL SEATING:** Every reasonable accommodation will be made to allow all reporters full access to court proceedings. Depending upon the number of spectators and the availability of other courtrooms, the trial may be held in a location other than Courtroom 4, Judge Greenberg's customary courtroom. Special seating for members of the press will be provided, to the fullest extent possible.

6. COURTROOM DECORUM: No food, drink, or gum chewing is permitted in the courtroom. No person shall be permitted in the courtroom who is wearing any item on his or her person, or exhibiting any sign which, in the opinion of the trial judge, may tend to influence any juror or affect the orderly administration of these proceedings.

7. VIEWING OF COURT EXHIBITS: At the conclusion of the day's testimony, certain court exhibits that have been admitted will be available for viewing and/or photography in the courtroom clerk's office for up to one (1) hour after adjournment. One (1) pool photographer and one (1) videographer may view the exhibits. The Sheriff will accompany the agreed upon pool photographer and videographer to the courtroom clerk's office during the review. The exhibits will be handled by court personnel, only. The court reserves the right to prohibit photography or videography of exhibits that may be of a sensitive nature or otherwise not suitable for publication. No "live" television, telephone, radio or other broadcasts of exhibits shall be permitted during this viewing. No court personnel shall be recorded, photographed, or depicted in conjunction with the trial exhibits.

8. COMPACT DISC OF COURT PROCEEDINGS: A compact disc (CD) of the court proceedings may be obtained from Technical Services, located on the terrace level of the Judicial Center. That office closes promptly at 4:30 p.m. The charge for CD recording is \$15.00 for every ninety minutes of recorded audio and the afternoon proceeding must be ordered prior to 4:00 p.m. Discussions among the court and counsel at the bench will not be included on the CD.

9. AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING EQUIPMENT: No audio or video recording equipment, press cameras, recording or transmitting equipment shall be permitted in the courthouse except as provided in this Order. No tape recorders, cell phones or laptop computers shall be in permitted in the courtroom at anytime.

10. **POOL PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:** Limited pool video or still photography will be permitted as further described in this Order.

11. **CONTACT WITH JURORS:** Under no circumstances are members of the media or their representatives allowed to contact, photograph, interview or identify any juror during the course of the trial. No media personnel will be permitted on or about the fourth floor jury lounge.

12. **PRESS AREA:** A staging area for the media will be located in the lobby of the Judicial Center, on the Maryland Avenue side. A briefing area for interviews will also be established at this same location. Cell phones, still photography cameras, video cameras and other electronic devices may be used in this area.

13. **USE OF COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN COURTROOM:** The possession of cellular phones or laptops, and the usage of any electronic or communication device with an audible alert is strictly prohibited in the courtroom.

14. **CAMERAS, CABLE OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** The use of tape recorders, cameras, cable, or electronic devices will not be allowed beyond the designated press area except as otherwise provided in this order.

15. **CONTACT WITH THE TRIAL JUDGE:** Pursuant to the Maryland Code of Judicial Conduct § 2.10 (a copy of which is attached to this Order), a judge must generally abstain from public comment about matters pending before the court. Accordingly, Judge Greenberg and members of his staff will not submit to interviews or answer questions about the substantive issues in the case. Questions regarding scheduling or court procedures may be addressed to the judge's staff.

16. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DEFENDANT: Photography or videography of Brittany Norwood in the courthouse, during court proceedings, is strictly prohibited.

17. VIOLATIONS: Violations of this Order will subject the violator to a revocation of all media privileges, removal from the courtroom, and the contempt powers of this court.

18. CONTACT PERSONS: The following individuals are designated to handle issues that may arise during the course of the trial: **Security:** Captain John Bean, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (240-777-7110 or 240-876-2799); **Other Media Inquiries:** Pamela Harris, Court Administrator (240-777-9101); **Court Scheduling or Procedures:** Lisa Sparacino McRae, Administrative Assistant to Judge Greenberg (240-777-9392).

19. MEETING WITH MEDIA: Judge Greenberg will meet prior to trial with members of the media, on a date to be announced on the court website, to answer any questions regarding this order.

/s/ Robert A. Greenberg
ROBERT A. GREENBERG, Judge
Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland